

Reply to Office Action of 03/24/2005Serial No. 10/682,653REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 12-17 and the finding that claims 7-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claim 6).

Applicants also acknowledge the finding set forth in the office action that the prior art cited does not teach a transparent trailer as recited in claim 7.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the element: "a transparent trailer which is attached to an end of said substrate" that forms the thermal transfer ribbon. Claim 1 is now distinct from the prior art and all pending claims are allowable. Original claims 5 and 6 were inconsistent with amended claim 1 and have been canceled. Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 1.

Based on the above remarks, applicants submit all pending claims are now in a form suitable for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 703-812-5310 to discuss any new issues.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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Representative Capacity

PLEASE SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Attorney Docket No.: 11080.0 (NCRCO-0106-X)

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